



# **Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program**

## **2006 ANNUAL REPORT**





Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program

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January 8, 2007

The Honourable P. Myron Kowalsky  
Speaker  
Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly  
129 Legislative Building  
Regina, Saskatchewan  
S4S 0B3

Dear Mr. Speaker:

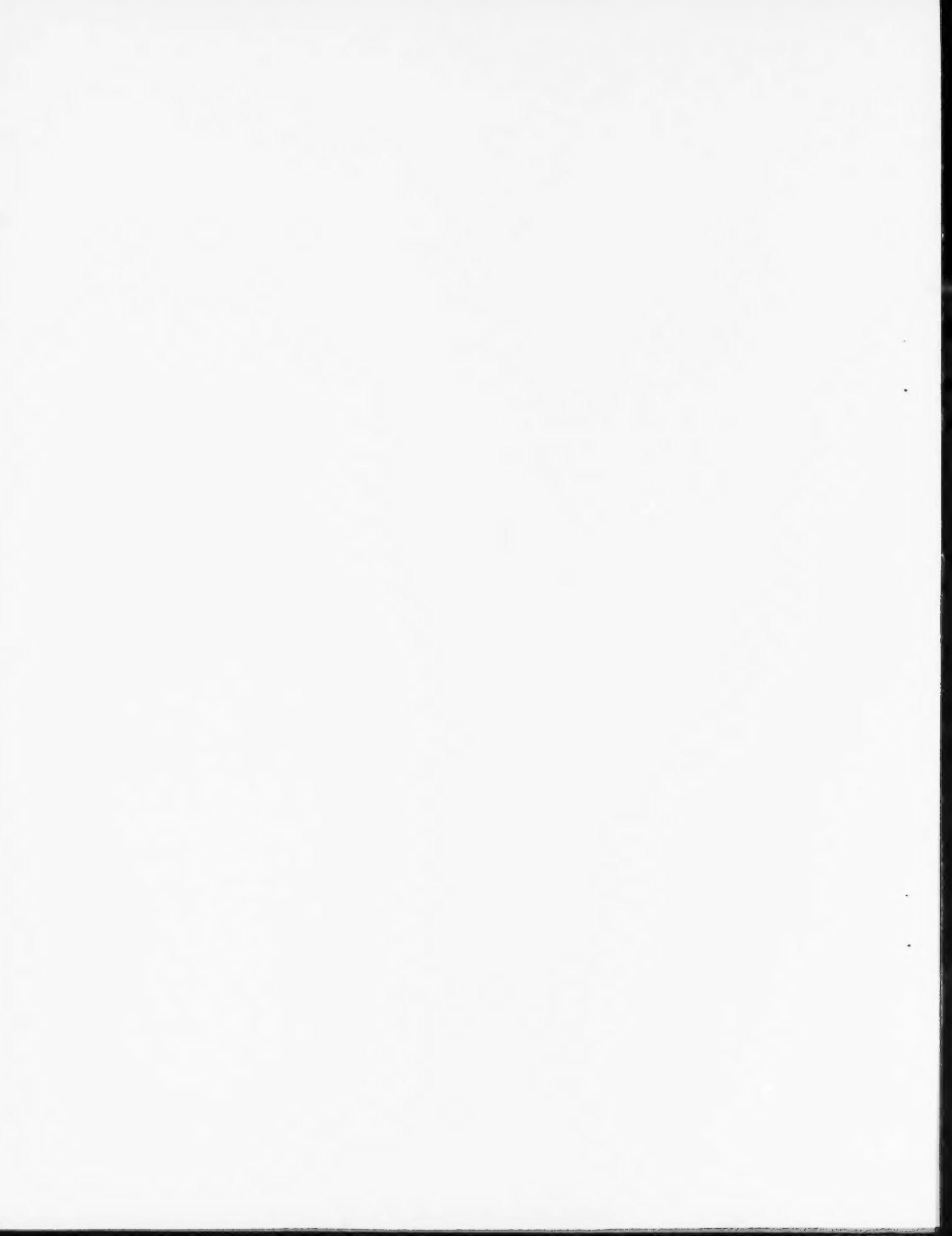
It is my honour to transmit to you for Tabling in the Legislative Assembly, the Fifth Annual Report of the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program (2006).

I want to thank you and all Members of the Legislative Assembly for your support of this very important program. I also want to thank the Members who worked with the Interns and assisted in this learning experience.

Sincerely,

Ken Pontikes  
Director  
Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program

KP/ml



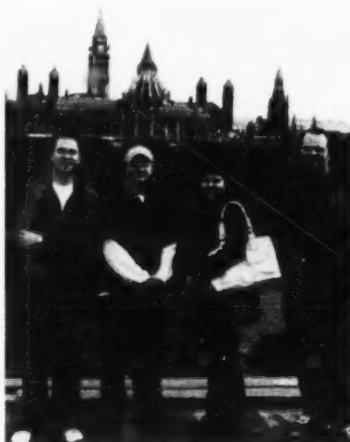


## Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program

### 2006 Annual Report

#### Preamble

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2006 Saskatchewan Legislative Interns

Left to right: Stewart Low, Michel Carpentier, Haley Gagnon, Justin Leifso

*The Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program has been an invaluable academic and professional experience, unparalleled by any other experience I have had. It is solely responsible for my decision to want to remain in this province and start a career. (Michel Carpentier, Intern)*

*The Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program was an opportunity of a lifetime. The entire program from application, to interview, to the internship itself was a learning and growing experience that gave me skills I will use for years to come. (Haley Gagnon, Intern)*

*To say that my seven months in SLIP has been the most satisfying seven months in my (albeit short) life would not be a dramatic exaggeration. The worst thing about the entire experience has been having it end. (Justin Leifso, Intern)*

*The experience and education I have gained from the SLIP internship have been second to none and the past seven months have been the most interesting and rewarding of my entire academic career. (Stewart Low, Intern)*





## Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program

### 2006 Annual Report

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#### **Introduction**

The Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program (SLIP) completed its fifth year in 2006. Four interns and future leaders of our province were able to experience the day-to-day work of ten members of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan and gain a greater understanding of and appreciation for our parliamentary system of governance and the processes involved in developing and implementing public policy.

This was an important year for the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program. Not only was there a reaffirmation of financial support for its core components, but also the foundation was laid for exciting new opportunities for its future interns. The core sponsors – the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, the University of Regina, and the University of Saskatchewan – re-established their joint financial support for the Program.

The Program also welcomed the generous financial support of two new corporate sponsors. Rawlco Radio has provided funding to add internships in 2007 and 2008 for First Nations and Métis university students and recent graduates. First Canadian Title provided a financial contribution to the intern development component of the 2006 Program.

The Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program also experimented with an opportunity proposed by the Government caucus to allow interns to observe the work of Cabinet ministers and their staff. Also, an international comparative-study component was introduced.

A review of the Program's administrative relationships and requirements was initiated. Concerns about insurance and liability exposure were addressed. The administrative status of the director was clarified. The academic requirements are being clarified and updated. The University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina are in the process of formalizing their involvement in the Program through a memorandum of understanding.

### **Our 2006 Legislative Interns**

Applications for 2006 internships were accepted from university students and recent graduates who identified Saskatchewan as their permanent residence. Twelve applications were received and reviewed by the SLIP Selection Committee. The members of this committee were:

- John Brockelbank (former Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan)
- Howard Leeson (representative of the University of Regina)
- Ken Pontikes (Director of the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program)
- Gwenn Ronyk (Clerk of the Legislative Assembly)
- Don Story (representative of the University of Saskatchewan)
- Rhiannon Stromberg (former legislative intern)
- Herb Swan (former Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan)

As a result of this committee's deliberations, four interns were selected to participate in the 2006 program. The 2006 Saskatchewan Legislative Interns were:

- Michel Carpentier, B. A. (Honours, Political Studies), M. A. candidate, University of Saskatchewan
- Haley Gagnon, Fourth year Aboriginal public administration student, University of Saskatchewan
- Justin Leifso, Fourth year political science student, University of Regina
- Stewart Low, B. A. (Honours, International Studies), University of Saskatchewan

Biographies of each intern have been attached to this report as Appendix A.



2006 Saskatchewan Legislative Interns meet, in Regina, with the Hon. P. Myron Kowalsky, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan and Patron of the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program

### **Our 2006 Legislative Mentors**

The success of the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program depends on the participation by private members of the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly. In 2006, ten members of the Legislative Assembly – five from the government caucus and five from the opposition caucus – agreed to serve as mentors to this year's interns. The members of the Legislative Assembly and their assigned interns were as follows:



<b><u>Intern</u></b>	<b><u>First Term</u></b>	<b><u>Second Term</u></b>
Michel Carpentier	June Draude (Opposition) Kelvington-Wadena and Don Morgan (Opposition) Saskatoon Southeast	Joanne Crofford (Government) Regina Rosemont
Haley Gagnon	Judy Junor (Government) Saskatoon Eastview	Don McMorris (Opposition) Indian Head-Milestone
Justin Leifso	Dan D'Autremont (Opposition) Cannington	Lon Borgerson (Government) Saskatchewan Rivers and Andy Iwanchuk (Government) Saskatoon Fairview
Stewart Low	Sandra Morin (Government) Regina Walsh Acres	Lyle Stewart (Opposition) Thunder Creek

The members of the Legislative Assembly assigned a wide range of activities and responsibilities to the interns. There were also opportunities for individual interns to participate in meetings, interact with constituents, and undertake research in public-policy areas of current concern and interest to their member.

### **The 2006 Program**

#### ***Orientation Component***

The Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly organized an orientation session for the interns. This session occurred during the first two weeks of their internship. It included meetings with Mr. Speaker, staff and officers of the Legislative Assembly, representatives of government and opposition caucuses, and representatives of the news media and of central agencies in executive government. (See Appendix C.)

#### ***Core Component***

The interns began their assignments with five members of the Legislative Assembly (two from the government caucus and three from the opposition caucus) on January 23, 2006. These assignments continued until April 24, 2006, when the interns were reassigned to five members from the other side of the House (two from the opposition caucus and three from the government caucus).

On a pilot basis, a new feature was added to the Program in 2006. Two interns were provided with an opportunity to visit and observe the activities within the offices of Cabinet Ministers. In April, while the House was in session, interns spent one day in the offices of each of the following Ministers:

**Intern****Ministers**

Haley Gagnon

Hon. Maynard Sonntag, Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations  
Hon. Buckley Belanger, Minister of Community Resources  
Hon. Joan Beatty, Minister of Northern Affairs

Stewart Low

Hon. Pat Atkinson, Minister of Advanced Education and Employment  
Hon. Eric Cline, Minister of Industry and Resources  
Hon. Glenn Hagel, Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation

Ms. Sandra Morin, MLA Regina Walsh Acres and member of the SLIP Advisory Committee, arranged the assignment of interns to the Ministers' offices. Haley Gagnon and Stewart Low appreciated the opportunity to observe the work of Cabinet Ministers and their staff. This experience enhanced their understanding of the legislative and political processes of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan. We hope that the opportunity to visit Ministers' offices can continue and can be provided to all interns in the future.

***Academic Component***

The Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program has been granted status as a six-credit course at Saskatchewan's two universities – Political Studies 382.6 at the University of Saskatchewan and Political Science 480 at the University of Regina. In previous years, the interns received a grade for one of these courses based on the director's evaluation of research papers prepared, individually, by each intern.

In 2006, the grading requirement was expanded to recognize other components of the interns' participation in the Program. Each intern's final grade was determined by the director, based on the following weighting:

- 75% for a research paper prepared, individually, by each intern and on a topic pertaining to legislative processes, public policy, politics or public administration;
- 15% for a joint report prepared on the four interns' observations and experience during their travel, under the Program's intern development component, to Ottawa and London (England); and
- 10% for each intern's completion of administrative duties, assigned annually by the director and pertaining to the Program's core and intern-development operations

The titles of the research papers prepared by the 2006 interns are as follows:

Michel Carpentier, "Saskatchewan's Provincial Auditor: Enhancing Government Accountability"

Haley Gagnon, "Democratic Deficit and the New Committee Structure in Saskatchewan: Is the New Committee Enough?"

Justin Leifso, "Changing Focus: The Evolving Role of Saskatchewan's Official Opposition"

Stewart Low, "Meeting the Demands of Saskatchewan's Growing Economy: Is Immigration the Answer?"

Copies of these papers have been filed with the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan.

### ***Intern Development Component***

The intern development component is undertaken through a special fund ("intern development fund"), which is supported by university and corporate sponsors and which is managed through the University of Saskatchewan. The intern development fund is used to support special projects that are identified by the interns to enhance their experience in the Program. These projects include transportation and accommodation costs related to the interns' travel to other jurisdictions, as well as attendance at workshops, conferences, meetings, and consultations with major organizations and with people in leadership positions from various sectors of Saskatchewan. The interns are responsible for arranging all of the logistical arrangements associated with these projects.

An important element of the Program's intern development component involves the interns' study tour to other jurisdictions. The purpose of the tour is to allow the interns to compare legislative and government processes to what they have observed and experienced in Saskatchewan. The tour is organized by the interns and is funded through the intern development fund.

As part of their comparative study tour, the 2006 SLIP interns traveled to Ottawa and to London (England). The interns have filed a report on their tour, a portion of which is attached to this annual report as Appendix E.



2006 Saskatchewan Legislative Interns meet, in Ottawa, with the Hon. Peter Milliken, Speaker of the House of Commons

The interns also used the intern development fund to cover the costs of attending, as observers, several conferences and events dealing with politics, public policy, and other current issues facing Saskatchewan. During 2006, all or some of the SLIP interns attended the following conferences:

- Convention, Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (Regina)
- Convention, Saskatchewan Party (Saskatoon)
- Convention, Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (Regina)
- Conference, "Safe Streets, Safe Cities: Seeking Solutions", Community Life Improvement Council and the Canada West Foundation (Calgary)

The interns participated in two events sponsored by the Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy – an "armchair discussion" with Dr. David Smith and a conference ("Moving Towards Justice: Legal Traditions and Aboriginal and Canadian Justice").

They also had opportunities to meet privately with several community, business, and academic leaders in Saskatchewan:

- Don Atchison, Mayor, City of Saskatoon
- Allan Blakeney, former premier of Saskatchewan
- Pat Fiacco, Mayor, City of Regina
- Joe Garcea, Department of Political Studies, University of Saskatchewan
- Susan Lamb, Executive Director, Meewasin Valley Authority
- Peter MacKinnon, President, University of Saskatchewan
- Bob Pringle, Executive Director, Saskatoon Food Bank
- Bill Rafoss, Supervisor, Mediations and Investigations, Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission
- Roy Romanow, former premier of Saskatchewan
- Donna Scott, Chief Commissioner, Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission

### ***Administrative Component***

The interns performed various administrative duties pertaining to the operation of the program. These duties included updating the SLIP's web pages, promoting the Program to students and officials at Saskatchewan's three universities, and organizing an appreciation event for sponsors, supporters, members of the Saskatchewan Legislature, and presenters.

### **Funding**

The Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan provides funding for scholarships provided for each intern during their mentorship, for all expenses incurred by the interns during mentorship with private members of the Assembly, and for the honorarium and expenses of the Program's director. The Legislative Assembly approved a \$350 increase to the annual scholarship – from \$12,600 in 2005 to \$12,950 in 2006 – to bring the amount closer to what is offered to interns in other comparable Canadian legislative internship programs.

The 2006 funding for the intern development fund included grants from both universities – University of Saskatchewan (\$4,000) and University of Regina (\$4,000). We also received funding support from the following corporate sponsors:

- The Cooperators Group, headquartered in Guelph, Ontario (\$3,000, same as 2005)
- SGI, headquartered in Regina, Saskatchewan (\$1,000, increased from \$750 in 2005)
- First Canadian Title, headquartered in Oakville, Ontario (\$1,000, first-time funding)

On April 12, 2006, the director and interns spent a portion of the day in Regina with representatives of First Canadian Title – Julia Jones (Regional Director, Western Canada) and Wendy Rinella (Director, Government Relations). In appreciation of the corporation's support for the SLIP, Ms. Jones and Ms. Rinella were formally introduced to the members by the Speaker during that day's session of the Legislative Assembly.

### **2006 Financial Statements**

The Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program's statement of revenues and expenses for the period from October 1, 2005 to September 30, 2006, inclusive, has been provided in Appendix B of this report. During this period, the Program realized an operating surplus of \$2,743.67. This surplus is completely attributed to the intern development component.

The balance sheet for the intern development fund has also been provided in Appendix B. At September 30, 2006, the fund had an accumulated surplus of \$10,842.82.

### **Rawlco Aboriginal Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program**

On June 12, 2006, the Honorable P. Myron Kowalsky (Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan) and Ms. Pam Leyland (President of Rawlco Radio) announced the expansion of the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program, with a component designed specifically for First Nations and Métis university students and recent graduates. Rawlco Radio will be providing a financial contribution of \$40,000 to fund the Rawlco Aboriginal Saskatchewan Legislative Internship for 2007 and 2008. Rawlco Radio's contribution will increase the number of interns under the SLIP from four to five in each of those years.

Aboriginal students have always been able to participate in the SLIP. For example, one of the 2006 interns, Haley Gagnon, is a member of the Red River Métis community. The Rawlco internship will ensure that during the next two years, at least one intern will be a First Nations or Métis person.

During the early fall of 2006, the Rawlco Internship was promoted among Aboriginal students at the University of Saskatchewan, the University of Regina, and the First Nations University of Canada. Information on this internship was also sent to Saskatchewan Aboriginal students who are currently studying at universities in other parts of Canada. An application process was established to select the first Rawlco intern who will participate in the 2007 Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program.



Rawlco Radio's contribution has provided an impetus and means to pursue opportunities to incorporate components within the SLIP pertaining to Aboriginal governance and politics and their intergovernmental relationship with the provincial government. These elements will be available to all interns participating in the Program.

### **Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program Advisory Committee**

The program's advisory committee serves to provide a governance framework for the Program. The members of this committee for the 2006 program were:

Hon. P. Myron Kowalsky, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan  
Ms. Sandra Morin, Government caucus representative  
Mr. Jason Dearborn, Opposition caucus representative  
Ms. Gwenn Ronyk, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan  
Professor Don Story, University of Saskatchewan representative  
Professor Howard Leeson, University of Regina representative  
Mr. Ken Pontikes, Director of the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program

While the committee did not meet in 2005-06, individual members were consulted by the Program's director on various occasions during the year for advice and assistance on specific operational issues.

### **Administrative Issues**

Consideration was given during the year to addressing several issues pertaining to the administration of the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program. These include:

- Addressing the various insurance and liability concerns pertaining to the interns' and the director's involvement in the Program,
- Implementing structural changes to the SLIP course at the University of Saskatchewan to clarify the interns' status as students with respect to loans, scholarships, and income taxation, and
- Providing interns with access to workers' compensation benefits, in accordance with a memorandum between the Workers' Compensation Board and Saskatchewan Learning.

Discussions also commenced to formalize the participation of the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina in the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program. A draft memorandum of understanding has been prepared and is currently under consideration by both institutions.

### **Canadian Study of Parliament Group**

The Canadian Study of Parliament Group (CSPG) is a non-partisan organization consisting of experts, academics, and public servants with an interest in the role, function and reform of parliamentary institutions. The group annually sponsors a national essay competition. Submissions on topics pertaining to parliament, legislatures or legislators are accepted from students at the college, undergraduate, and graduate levels.

In 2006, the essay submitted by Rhiannon Stromberg was selected by the CSPG as the best submission from a graduate student. The essay prepared by Ms. Stromberg was part of the research component of the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program when she served as an intern in 2005. The title of the essay was "An Opportunity for Change in the Functioning of Legislatures: Examining the Policy Field Committee System in Saskatchewan".

### **Acknowledgements**

The success of the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program is due to the assistance of many individuals. Among the most important are the members of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan who volunteer to mentor an intern over a three-month period. SLIP has been very fortunate to have supportive MLAs on both sides of the House who are willing, through their participation, to share their knowledge and experience with some of this province's future leaders.

We also extend our thanks to politicians, public servants, community leaders, and journalists in Saskatchewan, Ottawa, and the United Kingdom who took the time to meet with our interns. Their candid insights on current political, public policy, and administrative issues were appreciated by the interns and enhanced the program's overall experience for them.

SLIP would not be possible without the administrative support provided by the staff of the Legislative Assembly, the Government and Opposition Caucus Offices, and the Department of Political Studies at the University of Saskatchewan. Particular mention needs to be given to the assistance we received from Monique Lovatt of the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and Alexis Dahl of the Department of Political Studies, University of Saskatchewan.

We also want to acknowledge the organizational support we received from the Parliamentary Internship Program. In the past, the Saskatchewan interns' meetings in Ottawa have in large part been organized by interns participating in the Parliamentary program. This year, we would like to acknowledge the assistance provided by Lesia Horbay, a 2005-06 Parliamentary Intern. Ms. Horbay is from Saskatchewan and an Honours Bachelor of Arts graduate in public administration from the University of Saskatchewan.

This was the first time that our interns traveled to the United Kingdom. Michel Carpentier, who organized the trip on behalf of the Saskatchewan Legislative Interns, was responsible for making most of the initial contacts with officials in the British Parliament, in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, and in Canada House. This ground-breaking work has established an understanding of our program in London and will be useful for organizing comparative-study trips for future interns. With respect to the 2006 tour, we would like to recognize the assistance we received from Barbara Hunter and Rosie Challis in the Overseas Office of the British Parliament.

We also want to take this opportunity to give special acknowledgement to Gwenn Ronyk, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, who will be retiring from this position in December of 2006. Since its inception, Ms. Ronyk has been unwavering in her enthusiasm and commitment to the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program and its interns. Ms. Ronyk has played a major role in establishing the SLIP and in providing guidance and support in shaping the Program into its current form.

Finally, we thank our 2006 interns – Michel Carpentier, Haley Gagnon, Stewart Low, and Justin Leifso. Through their term as interns, they presented themselves and represented the program in a professional and ethical manner. They participated in accordance with the principles of nonpartisanship and respected the need to protect the confidentiality of the information they handled.

Through the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program, four young people had an opportunity to experience the processes of developing and implementing public policy in Saskatchewan. They have gained a greater understanding and appreciation of our democratic system, how people are governed, and the contributions made and challenges faced by our elected representatives. What Michel, Haley, Stewart, and Justin have learned and experienced during their internship will undoubtedly affect their role as future leaders of our province and nation.

Further information about the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program, including application procedures, can be obtained from the Program's website at [www.legassembly.sk.ca/internship](http://www.legassembly.sk.ca/internship). Also, the Program's Director, Ken Pontikes can be contacted by email at [kpontikes@sasktel.net](mailto:kpontikes@sasktel.net) or by mail at:

University of Saskatchewan  
Department of Political Studies  
Room 919, Arts Building  
9 Campus Drive  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
S7N 5A5



## **Appendix A**

### **2006 LEGISLATIVE INTERNS**

#### **Michel Carpentier**

Michel Carpentier was born in Arborfield and raised on a farm near Zenon Park. He served as president of his high school's Student Representative Council from grades 10 through 12. He was also involved in various sports activities and drama.

In 2004, Michel obtained a Bachelor of Arts Honours degree in political studies, with a minor in history, from the University of Saskatchewan. He is currently completing his Master of Arts degree in political studies at the same university.

While at the University of Saskatchewan, Michel has held several positions with the Arts and Science Students' Union, including the position of president during the 2003-04 academic year. He has served as a student representative on the University Council and several College committees, such as the Arts and Science Dean's Search Committee. He has been a member-at-large on the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union Academic Affairs Committee.

Michel has been involved in the national air cadet program since the age of 12. He achieved the rank of Warrant Officer First Class and obtained various leadership awards at two different cadet units. He became a member of the Canadian Forces Cadet Instructors' Cadre in 1999. He has been an instructor at the Penhold Air Cadet Summer Training Centre in Red Deer, Alberta. While attending the University of Saskatchewan, he served as a staff member for No. 107 Spitfire Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron in Saskatoon. In this capacity, he has taught courses in leadership, effective communications, citizenship, and instructional techniques. In 2002, he achieved the rank of Lieutenant.

#### **Haley Gagnon**

Haley Gagnon was raised in Vermillion (Alberta) and in Turtleford and North Battleford (Saskatchewan). She is a proud member of the Red River Métis community in both Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Haley attended North Battleford Comprehensive High School, where she was actively involved in band and drama productions, Students against Drunk Driving, the yearbook club, debating team, and student travel.

In 2002, she was selected to represent Saskatchewan as a member of the RCMP Commissioner's National Youth Advisory Committee. This committee provides advice to the police force on major issues facing young people.

Haley has been actively associated with the Canadian military. During the summer of 2005, she completed her basic training as a member of the Canadian Army Primary Reserve. She is currently a member of the 16<sup>th</sup> Service Battalion of the Canadian Armed Forces, based in Saskatoon.

Haley is in her fourth year of studies at the University of Saskatchewan. She is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Aboriginal Public Administration. Haley is an executive member of the Public Administration Students' Society and a founding member of the Aboriginal Public Administration Students' Society. She has served as a volunteer tutor for other Aboriginal

students at the University of Saskatchewan, has been a member of the Sexual Assault Awareness Committee, and has worked as a research assistant for two professors at the University of Saskatchewan. She has been a member of the student liaison committee which is supporting the development of programs for the University of the Arctic.

### **Justin Leifso**

Justin Leifso was raised on a farm near Crane Valley, Saskatchewan, and subsequently in Moose Jaw, where he attended Central Collegiate and graduated in 2000. While in high school, he was very active in student government, football, and drama.

He is currently studying at the University of Regina where he is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in political science, with a minor in leadership. Justin's academic record has earned him recognition over several terms on the Dean of Arts' Honours List. He has also achieved membership in the Golden Key International Honours Society, which recognizes students with academic records in the top 15% for their faculty.

In 2005, Justin was employed as a research assistant at the Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy. He was involved in the preparation of a policy briefing note which discusses the future of mandatory retirement legislation and which will be published later this year.

Justin has been prominently involved in non-profit organizations and festivals in Moose Jaw. For two summers (in 2002 and 2003), he served as festival assistant for "Motif", the annual multicultural festival sponsored by the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council. In 2004, he became the assistant festival organizer for the Festival of Words. His responsibilities included promotion, event management, volunteer coordination, solicitation of in-kind goods and services, and miscellaneous office duties. He performed this role again in 2005, and subsequently has joined the Festival's board of directors.

### **Stewart Low**

Stewart Low received his early education in Rouleau, Saskatchewan. His family subsequently moved to Regina, where he graduated from Martin Collegiate.

Following high school graduation, he moved to Saskatoon to work as a coach/program director for the Saskatchewan Field Hockey Association. His responsibilities included promoting field hockey in the Saskatoon area, including introducing the sport in several elementary schools. Participation at this level doubled during his tenure. He currently holds levels 1 and 2 tactical and technical coaching certificates.

In 2005, Stewart graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a Bachelor of Arts Honours degree. His major was in international studies and his minor was political studies. He has been a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society which recognizes students whose academic accomplishments place them in the top fifteen percent of their College.

Stewart has served as a member at large for the International Studies Students' Association at the University of Saskatchewan. With his interest in field hockey, he has held several positions as an executive board member of the Saskatchewan Field Hockey Association. He has also volunteered as a youth program leader for the Adelaide Park Community Association.

## Appendix B

### Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program Intern Development Fund

#### Balance Sheet September 30, 2006

##### Assets

Due from University of Saskatchewan (Note 1)		<u>\$ 11,676.82</u>
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##### Liabilities

Accounts Payable		\$ 834.15
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##### Accumulated Surplus

Balance, October 1, 2005	\$ 8,099.15	
Surplus for 2006 Program	2,743.67	
		<u>10,842.82</u>

Liabilities and Accumulated Surplus		<u>\$ 11,676.97</u>
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#### Statement of Revenues and Expenses Core Program and Intern Development For the Period from October 1, 2005 to September 30, 2006

	Core Program	Intern Development	Total
<b>Revenues</b>			
Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan	\$ 77,814.31		\$ 77,814.31
University of Regina		\$ 4,000.00	4,000.00
University of Saskatchewan		4,000.00	4,000.00
The Cooperators Group		3,000.00	3,000.00
SGI		1,000.00	1,000.00
First Canadian Title		1,000.00	1,000.00
	<u>\$ 77,814.31</u>	<u>\$ 13,000.00</u>	<u>\$90,814.31</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Academic Director – Honorarium	\$ 9,259.61		\$ 9,259.61
Interns – Scholarship	51,800.00		51,800.00
Travel – Director	3,096.58		3,096.58
Travel – Interns	2,492.22	\$ 10,242.51	12,734.73
Administrative and Other Expenses	11,165.90	13.82	11,179.72
	<u>\$ 77,814.31</u>	<u>\$ 10,256.33</u>	<u>\$ 88,070.64</u>
<b>Surplus</b>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>\$ 2,743.67</u>	<u>\$ 2,743.67</u>

##### Note:

1. All cash for this fund is being held, on behalf of the program, by the University of Saskatchewan.

## **Appendix C**

### **PARTICIPANTS IN THE 2006 ORIENTATION PROGRAM**

We would like to thank the following individuals who met with the interns and provided briefing information on their responsibilities. These meetings occurred during the orientation component of the 2006 program (January 9-20, 2006).

Mr. Marv Bernstein, Children's Advocate  
Hon. Lorne Calvert, Premier of Saskatchewan  
Mr. Al Dennett, Executive Director, Department of Finance  
Mr. Gary Dickson, Information and Privacy Commissioner  
Mr. Kevin Fenwick, Provincial Ombudsman  
Mr. Gerald Gerrand, Q.C., Conflict of Interest Commissioner  
Ms. Terry Gudmundson, Opposition Caucus Office  
Ms. Sheila Harmatiuk, Legislative and House Business Officer, Government Caucus Office  
Ms. Terry Harris, Opposition Caucus Office  
Ms. Clare Isman, Chair, Public Service Commission  
Dr. Michael Jackson, Consultant to the Office of Protocol and Honours  
Hon. P. Myron Kowalsky, Speaker, Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan  
Ms. Iris Lang, Clerk Assistant (Committees), Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan  
Mr. Randy Langgard, Senior Policy Advisor, Cabinet Planning Unit  
Mr. Murray Mandryk, Saskatchewan News Network  
Ms. Raelyn Douglas, Performance Management Group, Department of Finance  
Ms. Ginette Michaluk, Assistant Director of Human Resources and Administrative Services  
Hon. John Nilson, Minister of Health  
Mr. Jean Ouellet, Chief Electoral Officer  
Ms. Jessica Paul, Opposition Caucus Office  
Mr. Ian Peach, Director, Saskatchewan Institute of Policy Planning  
Ms. Alyssa Peel, Former Saskatchewan Legislative Intern (2004)  
Mr. Dan Perrins, Deputy Minister to the Premier  
Ms. Marian Powell, Legislative Librarian  
Mr. Tim Prince, Reference Librarian, Legislative Library  
Ms. Jane Blackett, Reference and Electronic Resources Librarian, Legislative Library  
Mr. Greg Putz, Deputy Clerk, Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan  
Ms. Carolyn Rebeyka, Chief of Communications to the Premier  
Mr. Ken Ring, Legislative Counsel and Law Clerk  
Ms. Gwenn Ronyk, Clerk, Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan  
Ms. Deb Saum, Executive Director, Office of Protocol and Honours  
Mr. Fred Wendel, Provincial Auditor  
Ms. Margaret Woods, Clerk Assistant, Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

## **Appendix D**

### **PARTICIPANTS DURING 2006 INTERNS' VISIT TO OTTAWA AND LONDON**

We would like to thank the following individuals who met with the interns when they traveled to Ottawa and London (from May 2-12, 2006) as part of the SLIP's intern development component.

#### **Ottawa**

Mr. David Anderson, Parliamentary Secretary and MP Cypress Hills-Grasslands  
Mr. Keith Boag, CBC News  
Mr. John Dickson, Deputy Chief of Mission, United States Embassy  
Mr. Mike Duffy, CTV News  
Hon. Ralph Goodale, MP Wascana  
Mr. James Hurley, Constitutional Expert  
Mr. Jean-Pierre Kingsley, Chief Electoral Officer  
Hon. Jack Layton, Leader of the federal New Democratic Party and MP Toronto-Danforth  
Hon. Peter Milliken, Speaker of the House of Commons  
Ms. Audrey O'Brien, Clerk of the House of Commons  
Mr. Charles Robert, Clerk of the Senate  
Hon. Mr. Justice Marshall Rothstein, Supreme Court of Canada  
Hon. Carol Skelton, Minister of National Revenue and MP Saskatoon-Rosetown-Biggar  
Hon. David Tkachuk, Senator

#### **London**

Mr. David Cairns, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Scotland and MP Inverclyde  
Ms. Emilie Delattre, Public Liaison, Canada House  
Mr. Paul Docker, Department of Constitutional Affairs  
Mr. Andrew Imlach, Director, Information Services, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association  
Mr. Niall Johnston, Director of Programmes, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association  
Mr. David Marshall, Head, All-Party Canada Group and MP Glasgow East  
Mr. Andrew Makower, Clerk, House of Lords  
Ms. Chloe Mawaon, Clerk, House of Lords  
Mr. Joe Omorodion, Financial Controller, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association  
Mr. Gordon Prentice, MP Pendle  
Ms. Elspeth Rainbow, Department of Constitutional Affairs  
Mr. David Rowland, Department of Constitutional Affairs  
Mr. Alan Sandall, Parliamentary Clerk, Public Bills Office  
Mr. John Stills, Department of Constitutional Affairs  
Ms. Amy Tait, Department of Constitutional Affairs  
Mr. Mark Turner, Canada Desk, Foreign Office



## **Appendix E**

### **2006 SLIP INTERNS' REPORT ON THEIR COMPARATIVE STUDY TOUR**

Prepared by Michel Carpentier, Haley Gagnon, Justin Leifso, and Stewart Low

Ottawa (May 2-6, 2006)

The Ottawa portion of the 2006 SLIP Comparative Study Tour was a resounding success. We had the privilege of meeting with many knowledgeable and central political figures in the Canadian federal political scene.

Our first meeting was with Mr. James Hurley. Mr. Hurley is a constitutional expert who was present for the constitutional debates in the 1980s and has a great deal of knowledge related to constitutional issues in Canada. He was extremely entertaining and was very open with us about the role that Saskatchewan played in the constitutional talks.

We also had the privilege of meeting with one of the federal party leaders. We met with Mr. Jack Layton shortly after a press conference he held regarding the budget. This was a relatively short meeting but very worth while. Mr. Layton discussed how Saskatchewan has played an important role in the formation of his party. As well, we discussed his stance on the 2006 budget and the dynamics of current party politics in Canada. Mr. Layton was very friendly and was pleased to meet with a group of young people from Saskatchewan.

This was followed by a tour of the Parliament Buildings. The buildings were beautiful and the history contained within is extraordinary. After our tour we were able to observe Question Period. This was especially interesting because it was the day after the 2006 Conservative budget was released. Observing QP allowed us the unique opportunity to see the differences in scale and decorum from the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly. We found the biggest difference to be the division of questions due to the multi-party house and the stark differences in decorum or general behaviour of ordinary members and cabinet ministers during QP.

Following QP we were fortunate to meet with the Clerk of the House of Commons, Ms. Audrey O'Brien. She was very open and frank about her opinions on decorum and the changes in the House with the change in government due to the recent election. She had a wealth of knowledge about the role of the House of Commons and her role as Clerk. This meeting was very entertaining and worth while; a definite must for any future trips to Ottawa.

Our final meeting of our first day was with Mr. Ralph Goodale. This meeting was interesting for us because of the timing. It was very interesting to talk to the former Finance Minister the day after the Conservative budget. We discussed the impact of the new party division on Saskatchewan and the different outlooks on fiscal policy between the two major parties. Mr. Goodale was not afraid of a frank discussion about past fiscal policy or the problems within his caucus. This discussion was both informative and valuable.

The next morning we had the privilege of touring the Supreme Court of Canada. This was followed up by a meeting with Supreme Court Justice Marshall Rothstein, the newest appointee to the highest court in the land. We discussed a variety of constitutional issues and the new selection process for judges. He was very open and informative about the process and his opinions on its implementation. He also encouraged all of us to take up the study of law. This was one of our most interesting meetings. It was quite an honour to be able to meet with a representative of the highest court in the land.



2006 Saskatchewan Legislative Interns meet, in Ottawa,  
with the Hon. Mr. Justice Marshall Rothstein of the Supreme Court of Canada

We then visited the US Embassy and met with the Deputy Chief of Mission, Mr. John Dixon. The meeting was dominated by a discussion of Canada-US relations. Mr. Dixon gave us the impression that this relationship is as valuable to their country as it is to ours. Mr. Dixon also gave us some insight into the role of diplomats when agreeing upon international policy. As we left the office to go to our next meeting, we were fortunate to briefly meet and shake hands with the US Ambassador to Canada, Mr. David Wilkins.

Following this, we met with Saskatchewan Senator David Tkachuk in the Senate of Canada building. Mr. Tkachuk was very friendly and pleased to see a group of young people from Saskatchewan. The discussion focused on Senate reform and the recent appointment of a Senator after Prime Minister Harper had said he would not. Lastly, we discussed the different roles of Senators and also what he felt his responsibility to the Senate and to the Government is as a Conservative Senator.

We also had the pleasure of meeting with Mr. Peter Milliken, the Speaker of the House of Commons. Our discussion focused on decorum in the House and what he perceived his role as Speaker to be. We had an interesting discussion about the changes in the style of debate since the recent election and we discussed the advantages and disadvantages of being the Speaker when it comes to serving your constituents. Mr. Milliken takes great pride in being Speaker and he had a vast knowledge to share with us. He was very welcoming and informative.

Our final formal meeting of our second day was with the Minister of National Revenue, Ms. Carol Skelton, also the only Saskatchewan cabinet Minister. We discussed a variety of political and public policy issues of interest to us. Ms. Skelton was also willing to discuss Saskatchewan politics with us. She talked about areas of policy that are important to Saskatchewan people such

as agriculture and aboriginal issues. She also discussed with us her new role as a cabinet minister and her relationship with her constituents. We also discussed women in politics and how she feels about being part of that group.

For dinner that night we were fortunate to dine with Mr. Mike Duffy of CTV News and the Parliamentary interns in the glamorous Parliamentary Dining room where many Prime Ministers have dined. He shared with us stories from his vast time on "the Hill". He also discussed with us the difference between private and public media in Canada. This meeting was very enjoyable and it was exciting to meet a Canadian media celebrity so full of knowledge about the behind the scenes of Canadian politics.

Our final day in Ottawa was a much shorter schedule. We first met with the Clerk of the Senate, Mr. Charles Robert. This was an extremely interesting meeting that would permit us to conduct a comparative analysis of the UK House of Lords. We discussed the role of the Senate and recent proposals for Senate reform. He made the Senate seem to be more dynamic and interesting than we had previously thought. The meeting helped us to see the Senate as a central and valuable Canadian institution.

We were also fortunate to meet with Canada's Chief Electoral Officer, Mr. Jean-Pierre Kingsley, at Elections Canada. We discussed the role of Elections Canada and issues regarding electoral participation such as the low voter turn out in Canada and new strategies to get certain demographic groups involved in the electoral process. We also discussed problems of certain groups such as Aboriginal and homeless voters not voting. This was an extremely beneficial meeting. There was a wealth of knowledge to share and it made us re-examine electoral issues in Canada.

Our final meeting while we were in Ottawa was with Mr. David Anderson, an MP from Saskatchewan and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture. We discussed the recent changes in government and how the Conservative caucus and cabinet are adjusting to power. We also discussed the difficulty with working for your constituents when you are so far from them.

Our last day in Ottawa was spent doing cultural activities. We visited the Canadian War Museum, the Museum of Civilization and the National Gallery. Experiencing these things was a great addition to our trip. The only recommendation for future interns is to make sure you see and experience the cultural activities that Ottawa has to offer. For many of us, this was our first visit to the nation's capital. Ottawa has a strong cultural scene that must be experienced!

#### London (May 7-12, 2006)

With such a long day of travel on May 6/7, we decided that it was best to not schedule any formal meetings or tours for our first day in London. Instead, we took the time to take a short nap to catch up on sleep and have supper. We first walked towards Westminster, making sure to note some of the places we'd be visiting the next day. After a relatively short walk, we arrived at the Palace of Westminster, lit up brilliantly in the night. We took a moment to take in the sight of the Palace and Big Ben and then proceeded across the bridge towards the South shore of the Thames, where the London Eye and London Aquarium are situated. From the South shore we were gifted with another magnificent view of Westminster. We headed back to our hotel in awe of such a great city.



Our first day of meetings began with a rather informal morning tour of Canada House in Trafalgar Square. We thought it would be a good opportunity to see how Canada is represented in the United Kingdom. Once again taking advantage of how close our hotel was to most areas of London, we walked to Trafalgar Square – making sure to take umbrellas with us to adapt to London's famous wet climate. We were greeted at Canada House by Ms. Emilie Delattre who works as a public liaison for Canadians traveling abroad. She explained a great deal of her job was to help Canadians find their way around London, find jobs, give them directions for traveling in Europe, and helping Canadians with problems such as those who have lost their passports.

Canada House's building is quite beautiful with a great deal of historical significance, though we learned that it has been less accessible since 9/11 – we were asked to step through metal detectors before entering the building. Though we were pleased to get a glimpse at Canada in Great Britain, we were ecstatic when Emilie asked us if we'd like to use their public internet services. Having been cut off from Saskatchewan, the news, and the Stanley Cup playoffs for some time, we gladly took up her offer and spent some time emailing friends and family to let them know how our study trip was going.

Before our afternoon meetings, we decided to eat lunch. London is famous for many things, including the hefty expense of staying in the city. Because of our fixed budget, we paid a great deal of attention to saving money wherever possible. We saved a great deal of money by eating our breakfasts and lunches rather cheaply. Boots, a British pharmacy chain similar to Shoppers' Drug Mart, offers a lunch deal that includes a sandwich, side-dish (such as potato chips or brownie) and drink for three pounds. Most days, we took advantage of this deal. This saved us money though it did require us to grow accustomed to simple sandwiches and a drink for lunch!

Our afternoon meetings turned out to be very interesting. We began with Mr. David Cairns, the Secretary of State for Scotland and one of his staff, Mr. Glenn Preston. Knowing that we were from Canada and that we worked in a provincial legislature, Mr. Cairns dove right in and began telling us about devolution of powers in the British political system. In recent years, the British parliament has given more autonomy to Wales, Northern Ireland and Wales. We spent a good portion of the meeting comparing their devolved powers with Canadian federalism. Some interesting differences included the fact that Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland all have different amounts of autonomy, with Scotland having the most. Even with more autonomy than the other two, the Scottish Parliament does not have revenue-raising capabilities. Rather, the British Parliament gives the Scottish Parliament an unconditional block sum of money, and the Scottish Parliament spends it as it sees fit. There are similarities, however, as there are certain policy areas where each has jurisdiction. The Scottish Parliament has jurisdiction over issues related to education and health policy, whereas the British Parliament has power over national defense, foreign affairs and energy.



2006 Saskatchewan Legislative Interns meet, in London, with Mr. David Cairns, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Scotland and MP Inverclyde

We also discussed aboriginal issues with Mr. Cairns. In addition to giving us his views on British politics, he was very interested in our perspectives on Saskatchewan and Canadian issues, including the challenges Canada faces concerning First Nations and Aboriginal peoples. We also discussed the prevalence of the British National Party (BNP) in Great Britain in the recent local elections. Mr. Cairns suggested that the neo-fascist BNP was exploiting working class frustrations and the tensions that have arisen with the large increase in immigration that Britain has experienced in recent years, and that the BNP's support was limited yet troubling.

From our meeting with Mr. Cairns, we traveled to the British Foreign Office – a kind of Department of Foreign Affairs – where we met Mr. Mark Turner, an official with the Foreign Office. Mr. Turner has extensive experience with the Foreign Office, and has worked on the desks for a number of countries including Canada. Because part of his responsibility involves overseeing relations between his department and parliament, we discussed the relationship between executive and legislative branches of government in Great Britain. Because our experience was in a legislature in which most government MLAs are also cabinet ministers, it was interesting to discuss a parliament in which the vast majority of government Members are not cabinet ministers and likely never will be – providing a fascinating comparative analysis. When Mr. Turner asked us to update him on “what happened to Preston Manning and his Reform Party,” we informed him that Mr. Manning's party had evolved into a very successful party.

With our first day of official meetings over, we found our way back to the hotel to change and go to a local pub for supper. It was during our second night in London that we discovered that most of the pubs in downtown London seem to have a common owner. While we were expecting to find many such establishments, each with their own character, we soon realized that the vast majority of the pubs had identical menus and prices. Though they usually looked different and had different names, it seems the economics of concentration and franchise touches even the supposedly “traditional British pubs.”

Day two of our stay in London began with a meeting at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. A worldwide organization that is composed of most of the world's parliaments (both national and regional), the CPA provides a number of services for parliamentarians as well as the opportunity for members of legislatures and parliaments from around the world to

compare their systems and see how they might improve the workings of their own system. We met with the Director of Information Services and Canadian Mr. Andrew Imlach, the Financial Controller Mr. Joe Omorodion, and the Director of Programmes Mr. Niall Johnston. They gave us an introduction to the structure and purpose of the CPA and provided valuable information about an organization about which we had little prior knowledge.

We were then met by Barbara Hunter, who had helped Michel plan our day at Westminster prior to the trip. She escorted us to the Palace of Westminster, where we were treated to a tour of the palace. Tours of the Palace of Westminster are fascinating and breathtaking, as they follow the path of monarchs when they visit the palace to address the British Parliament. Unlike Ottawa, we were able to walk through both the House of Lords and House of Commons. It was at this time that we realized how incredibly small the House of Commons is. With over six hundred MPs, the House of Commons chamber is roughly the size of the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly. For this reason, all MPs cannot fit in the chamber at once and when the Prime Minister answers questions every Wednesday, during Prime Minister's Question Time, the benches are full with MPs, squeezed in beside one other.

Following our tour, we were treated to lunch by Mr. Alan Sandall, a parliamentary clerk with the Public Bills Office. Mr. Sandall had spent time in Saskatchewan in the 1980s and we discussed the province and its people. We also discussed British politics and the huge education legislation that his committee had been working on at the time. This was also a few of the interns' first experience with "fizzy water," a carbonated water drink that is apparently quite popular in the UK.

After lunch, we were able to sit in on Question Time for the day. This provided us with a very interesting comparison between the Canadian and British systems, as Question Time is dramatically different than the Canadian Question Period. Instead of the opposition driving the agenda during Question Time by selecting the issues to highlight and the ministers to ask the questions, Great Britain's Question Time rotates through the departments. During our visit to Question Time, the Scottish Office was answering questions from the opposition, giving us the opportunity to see Mr. David Cairns, with whom we had met the day before, answer questions. Because of the specialized nature of Question Time, which actually resembles a Canadian legislative committee more than Question Period, most MPs do not attend and the decorum is significantly less hostile than is the case in the Canadian House of Commons or Saskatchewan Legislature.

Next on our schedule for day three was a meeting with Mr. David Marshall, a Labour Member of Parliament from Scotland. Mr. Marshall is the head of the All-party Canada Group, comprised of MPs who are interested in promoting Canada-UK relations and working towards building upon that relationship. We were lucky enough to be joined by Mr. Gordon Prentice, who is also a Labour MP from Scotland. Because of the recent cabinet shuffles and the tension being felt by Prime Minister Blair and his backbenchers, a great deal of the discussion revolved around Mr. Blair's leadership. Mr. Prentice, considered one of the more rebellious Labour MPs, expressed his dissatisfaction with the government. This was the most blatant example of how much Great Britain and Canada differ in respect to the relationship between the government and their backbenchers. While in Ottawa, we noticed that Conservative MPs were quite diligent in towing the party line while in Great Britain, government backbenchers are much more willing to

explicitly express their displeasure with the direction and leadership provided by the government. While Prime Minister Harper's caucus seems to be cohesive, Prime Minister Blair is clearly having serious dissention problems in his caucus.

Our last meetings of the day were with two clerks of the House of Lords: Mr. Andrew Makower and Ms. Chloe Mawaon. These meetings focused on the comparison between the Canadian Senate and the British House of Lords. We were interested to know that Lords are not paid a salary like Canadian Senators and that many of them never attend the House when it is in session. A great deal of discussion revolved around reform of the Senate and the House of Lords. In our meeting with Mr. Makower, we discussed how upper house reform differs in the two countries because of Canada's written constitution. In a thought-provoking statement, Mr. Makower ended the meeting by stating that Great Britain "would be a unicameral republic long before Canada" because of its lack of a written constitution.

After our meetings on day two, we took the time to experience the famous London Eye, the world's largest Ferris wheel. The towering Ferris wheel gives an unparalleled view of London and the experience was quite breathtaking. Justin is not fond of heights and he attempted to stay in the middle of the passenger capsule, far from the glass walls. The other interns, however, made the most of the experience and came back with amazing photographs.

Day three of official meetings in London was spent entirely at the Department of Constitutional Affairs (DCA). The day had been planned beforehand by Michel and a Department official, Dapo Babalola, whom we did not actually meet. We were guided around by Delanie Horrobin, an extraordinarily helpful and friendly young woman from the Department. She gave us a tour of the Department, and led us to the meeting room where we would have a number of meetings with officials from different areas of the Department.

We began with an introduction to the department and its electoral policy division with Mr. John Sills. We were informed that the DCA has a broad mandate but, in large part, oversees justice and electoral issues. Mr. Sills gave us an overview of the issues of the day including low voter turnout, the first-past-the-post system and House of Lords reform, and we returned by discussing our take on Canadian and Saskatchewan issues.

Next we met with Paul Docker, who deals with electoral modernization. This conversation was very interesting, as he told us about how Great Britain has begun to experiment with different forms of voting, including voting over the internet. New electoral systems and technologies are given trial runs in local elections and if such methods prove positive, they are considered for broader implementation. Mr. Docker also told us that he is a friend of Jean-Pierre Kingsley, Canada's Chief Electoral Officer. He explained that electoral officials from different countries keep in close touch with each other in order to compare strategies and methods for making the democratic process run more smoothly.

Our third meeting at the DCA was with David Rowland and focused on party funding. Like many of our meetings, we found that Great Britain is dealing with many of the same issues as Canada. For example, he explained that lately there had been a great deal of controversy concerning suspicious loans to political parties or candidates. Wealthy party supporters had been lending parties' money before elections instead of donating money to avoid contribution



limitations. After elections, the lender would simply write off the debt and the party would not pay it back, effectively making it a direct contribution to the party. When we returned to Canada, we learned that this was also an issue in the federal Liberal leadership campaign.

Our last meeting at the DCA was with Ms. Elspeth Rainbow and Ms. Amy Tait who study electoral engagement. Their job is to attempt to increase voter turnout and democratic participation by the public. Much like Canada and the United States, voter turnout in the UK is on the decline and much is being done to address this issue. Ad campaigns featuring contemporary music, celebrities, public service announcements, and e-voting are among some of the strategies the department has been utilizing in an attempt to engage voters.

In all of our meetings at the DCA, we found that the officials were as interested in our thoughts on politics as well. They asked us many questions about Canada and Canadian politics, which made us feel very welcome and accepted. A number of the staff members at the Department were from Australia and New Zealand, which led to fascinating cross-culture comparative discussions regarding some of the trends in each country including voter apathy, racism and the emergence of reactionary parties such as the BNP. It was an amazing day of meetings and we were very intellectually satisfied.

After the meeting, we had a scheduled tour of the BBC. Unfortunately, Justin had a minor health emergency and had to stay in the hotel room, but the other three interns made their way to the BBC and enjoyed their tour. That evening Michel and Stewart also made a trip to Abbey Road, the famous Beatles' recording studio.

Our last full day in London was dedicated to site-seeing at some of the famous London sites we hadn't yet had time to visit. We began the day by walking to Buckingham Palace, where we marveled at the beautiful building and home of the British Monarchy. From there we caught an Underground train to Westminster, where we visited Westminster Abbey. It was an amazing experience, as we were able to see the tombs of many of Britain's monarchs and national icons such as Sir Isaac Newton, Jeffery Chaucer, Sir Francis Drake and Charles Dickens. From there we traveled to the British Museum, where we attempted to see as much as possible in the limited time we had in one of the world's great museums. With artifacts from around the world including everything from Haida artifacts to the famous Rosetta Stone, the British Museum is a documentation of the history of human civilization. We made a whirlwind tour through the museum, taking many pictures, and then headed back to our hotel, exhausted from a long and busy day.

Our last night in England was spent enjoying a live Irish band in our hotel lounge. The location of the hotel was ideal, as it attracted people from around the world. In our time at the Regent Palace Hotel, we met interesting people from different areas around Great Britain, a number of US states including California and Michigan, Sweden, Switzerland, Italy, Spain and Hong Kong. It was a fantastic experience and interns in the future who are willing to deal with less-than-four-star accommodations are encouraged to take in the setting.

On May 12, we packed our bags and caught the Underground back to Heathrow, where we boarded our plane for a long flight (with a bumpy landing) to Calgary. In Calgary we transferred flights and made our last short flight to Regina.

